Annual Report of M.O.H.

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1925.

ANNUAL REPORT, of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT of SOUTH MOLTON.

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NATIONAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the Rural District comprises 114,752 acres.

Population ~~10110:~~ 10004:- Males 5141 Females 4863.

Physical Features of the district - Entirely Agricultural with an average altitude of 650 feet above sea level. The district is hilly and plentifully supplied with small streams and rivers which flow into the Mole and Taw Rivers which flows into the Sea at Barnstaple. There is a rainfall above the average.

Rateable value £97,086.

No. of inhabited houses, 2,373.

No. of separate occupiers 2,433

Sum represented by 1d. rate £404.

Social Conditions.

The Social Conditions are those of Market Towns and Villages entirely engaged in Agriculture.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS and DEATHS.

Total Births. 185 Birth Rate 18.5
6 illegitimate 5 males
1 Female.

Total Deaths 107 Death Rate 10.7

Last year birth rate was 16.5
death rate was 11.6

In 1915 10 years ago
the birth Rate was 16.
the death rate 10.1

9 deaths during the year of infants under 1 year.

This is about the average number.

Death from Cancer. 4 Males 9 Females - 13.

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1 death in every 8 is due to Cancer.

The average age of those that died - 59 1/12th. years.

Witheridge sub District.

No. of Deaths.	Males.	Females.	Inquests.	Natural Causes.
50	29	21	2	2

Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Influenza.	All other causes.	Average age.
Nil	One	2	46	59 1/12th.

Whooping Cough.) nil) Diarrhoea) nil)

7 Cases of Cancer average age 59½ years.

1 Pneumonia

9 deaths during the year of infants under 1 year.

Births 89. Male 54. Female 35 2 of these were illegitimate.

Total deaths 48 male
59 female
107

Total Births 103 male
82 female
185

of the number 6 were illegitimate 5 male 1 female.

Notifiable disease during year 1925 other than Tuberculosis.

Small Pox Nil.

Scarlet Fever 15 cases.

One death from complication,

some of these cases were extraordinary mild.

All cases treated at home.

Tuberculosis.

This disease has during the last 10 years or so obtained greater prominence than formerly. It has only been compulsory during the last 12 years or so

13 new cases have been notified
12 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis
1 case of Glandular.

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1 death in every 8 is due to Cancer.

The average age of those that died - 59 1/12th years.

Wilmerdge sub District.

No. of Deaths.	Males.	Females.	Inquests.	Natural Cause
80	29	21	2	2

Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Influenza.	All other causes.	Average age
Nil	One	2	46	59 1/12th

Whooping Cough. } Diarrhoea }
Nil } Nil }

7 Cases of Cancer average age 59½ years.

1 Inquestals

9 deaths during the year of infants under 1 year.

Births 89. Male 54. Female 35. 2 of those were illegitimate.

Total deaths 48 male
32 female
107

Total Births 102 male
82 female
185

of the number 6 were illegitimate 3 male 1 female.

Notifiable disease during year 1932 other than Tuberculosis

Small Pox Nil.

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One death from complication.

some of these cases were extraordinary mild.

All cases treated at home.

Tuberculosis.

This disease has during the last 10 years or so obtained greater prominence than formerly. It has only been compulsory during the last 12 years or so

12 new cases have been notified

12 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis

1 case of glandular.

The new cases were as follows:-

Under 10 years	no new case.		
" 15	" 3		
Under 20	1		
" 25	1		4 Females.
" 35	4		8 Males.
" 45	1		
" 55	1		
" 65	2		

6 Cases of Tuberculosis fatal

1924 11 deaths from Cancer.

1 death in every ten is due to cancer.

Death Rate less than last year.

Cancer rate higher - 8 deaths in 1914
12 " 1925.

Tuberculosis 6 deaths

against 9 in 1924

3 deaths from Influenza

Heart Disease	21 deaths
Pneumonia	7 deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	1 death.

Local Acts or General Adoptive Acts.

1. Public Health Acts 1925.
2. Infectious Disease 1916.
3. Public Health Water Act.
4. Public Health amendment Act 1907.
5. Housing and Town Planning Act.
6. Building Bye Laws.
7. Regulations Dairies and Cowshed and Milk Shops.
8. Public Health Act Ruinous Buildings.
9. New Tuberculosis Act 1925 (see report).

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply. (Recent) at North Molton. Stand Pipes.
(Recent) at Bishopsnympton Stand Pipes.

The Water supply at Northmolton is a great improvement.

At Chulmleigh a proper Water supply to the Houses.

The new cases were as follows:-

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" 15	" 3		
Under 20	1		
" 25	1		4 Females.
" 35	4		8 Males.
" 45	1		
" 55	1		
" 65	2		

6 Cases of Tuberculosis Total.

1924 11 deaths from Cancer

1 death in every ten is due to cancer.

Death Rate less than last year.

Cancer rate highest - 3 deaths in 1918

12 " 1922.

Tuberculosis 6 deaths

against 9 in 1924

5 deaths from Influenza

Heart Disease	21 deaths
Pneumonia	7 deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	1 death.

Local Acts or General Adoptive Acts.

1. Public Health Acts 1875.
2. Infectious Disease 1919.
3. Public Health Water Act.
4. Public Health Amendment Act 1907.
5. Housing and Town Planning Act.
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Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water Supply. (Recent) at North Molton. Steel Pipes.

(Recent) at Simonsbath Steel Pipes.

The Water supply at Northmoltoh is a great improvement.

At Chumleigh a proper Water supply to the Houses.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area (Contd.)

In the smaller villages and cottages and in the Farm houses by covered Wells and dip Wells.

A Public Water Supply is greatly needed in Chittlehampton Village.

I have tested some 29 samples of water - 11 samples had defects some have in the main been remedied.

11 of the above were found Polluted.

There has been no pollution of Rivers or Streams.

Poor Law Relief. Roughly about 270 are having relief.

Number of women dying in consequence of Childbirth Nil.

There is in the district an Infirmary connected with the Poor Law Institution but only used for parish cases - Cases needing operation are sent either to The North Devon Infirmary or Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital or Tiverton Hospital.

General Provision of Health Service in area.

Hospitals provided by the County Council for dealing with cases of Tuberculosis are at Hawley (a Tuberculosis Hospital) and at Hawkmoor, a Sanatorium.

For infectious disease.

You have an arrangement with the Exeter and Tiverton Hospitals for cases at £2 per week.

No use has been made of this to 1925.

No provision for Small Pox, but in such a contingency I think we could quickly improvise one.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

There are seven District Nurses in the Rural area who are of great use in the district.

Midwives. They are qualified Midwives. We have only one other in District qualified.

Drainage and Sewage.

Number of new Drains 18 in 7 different Parishes.

Number of repaired drains 10 in 4 different Parishes.

We are gradually getting improved drainage throughout the District.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area (Contd.)

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General Provision of Health Service in Area.

Hospitals provided by the County Council for dealing with cases of Tuberculosis are at Mawley (a Tuberculosis Hospital) and at Newmoor, a Sanatorium.

For infectious disease.

You have an arrangement with the Exeter and Tiverton Hospitals for cases at £2 per week.

No use has been made of this to 1925.

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Drainage and Sewage.

Number of new Drains 18 in 7 different Parishes.
Number of repaired drains 10 in 4 different Parishes.
We are gradually getting improved drainage throughout the District.

Closet Accommodation. There are no Public Closets or Urinals in the Rural District.

Scavenging. There are arrangements made for scavenging in the Parishes of Chulmleigh and Witheridge.

...

Sanitary Inspection of the District see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

...

Inspection of the District.

I have visited nearly every parish and part of the district usually with the Inspector. A great many defects have been remedied. Many more will be remedied.

Fresh instructions have been issued with regard to slaughter houses and I have to report a great improvement in the Slaughter Houses of the District. I have found people perfectly willing to comply with the New Regulations and we have had no trouble at all with the Butchers of the District. At the same time we have paid a great deal of attention to them this year and I think they know that the Council are determined the New Regulations shall be carried out.

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10 Preliminary Notices have been served and 6 Statutory Notices - all of which have been or are being complied with.

We have paid a good deal of attention to Shippens Cow Sheds and Dairies - one Shippen was a matter of complaint - this has been improved considerably - at considerable expense.

I don't suppose any town to-day would consider for a moment a new Shippen being built in the centre of a town - Living in a little town like South Molton one constantly gets complaints of the nuisance from the Cows soiling the foot paths and Roads leading in to the Town, and a great improvement would be effected if all Shippens were outside the Town. One Shippen was closed down.

Meat Inspections.

This matter has not provided so large a task as it at first appeared. We have seen two diseased Bullocks and three diseased Sheep and they we condemned - they were all suffering from Tuberculosis and I don't think there will be any difficulty for either the Inspector or myself in deciding whether a carcase is fit for human food or not.

Bakehouses.

Bakehouses in the District have most been inspected and some improvements have been recommended.

I do think cleanliness in this matter is of great importance it is our chief food and I cannot help thinking that the health of people engaged in making bread is a matter of great importance.

It is going to be a matter of importance in the near future just as we are moving in the right direction with regard to dairies, we shall just as surely move with regard to bakeries.

Housing Conditions.

There is still a considerable shortage of Houses in the District several more are necessary to meet the reasonable demands of the District - somewhere about 70. No cases of overcrowding have been reported. One case was reported but there was ample air allowance for all. I think the Reporter of the case had an undesirable Tenant and hoped we should get rid of them for him - but we could not.

A good number of Houses have been inspected and defects have been reported and all in many cases carried out.

Milk.

Very good supply - Cottage complain they cannot get Raw Milk.

Disposal of Excreta.

Big drainage scheme in larger villages.

In the smaller and cottages by the dry earth system. I had often to complain of the filthy condition of the Cottage. They will not empty them sufficiently often.

Tuberculosis (Public Health) Regulations 1925.

The new Tuberculosis Act of 1925 opens up a fresh field - It puts fresh duties on the Council. Here in South Molton we have a little experience of the Act - Where any one engaged in a Dairy is suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and is infectious the Council have the power to tell him he must cease doing so - This then opens up the question of Compensation and it certainly seems to me that this question cannot stand where it is at present - If a Council is to be called upon to pay compensation to protect the food supplies the Council ought to have the power of having people who are about to enter dairies medically examined - Before people are taken in at factories they are medically examined.

I have no doubt Gentlemen you will have the power before long to have people who are engaged or going to be engaged in dairies and Bakeries medically examined and

I have often been struck by the unhealthy appearance of some people engaged in Bakeries. I think it most important that their health should be good.

What a paradox it is. We are spending large sums of money to eradicate this disease. We are given power by the new Tuberculosis Act of July 25 to say to anyone engaged in handling milk - should he be suffering from Tuberculosis and be capable of giving infection to others - You must cease having anything to do with it - The very first case that occurred in our district - we say you must cease handling milk - we get a letter demanding compensation - which eventually the Council compromised.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Number of Bakehouses defective but now remedied.	2
Number of Dairies defective (1 Dairy closed)	1
Number of New drains	18

Improvements have also been carried out at three different points on the North Molton Sewer - at Fore St, East St. and The Square.

At Rackenford there has been a new extension of the Public Sewer 180 feet.

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SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Number of Premises defective but now remedied.	2
Number of Dairies defective (1 Dairy closed)	1
Number of New drains	18

Improvements have also been carried out at three different points on the North Molton Sewer - at Fore St, East St. and The Square.

At Hackenford there has been a new extension of the Public Sewer 180 feet.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS (Contd.).

At Chulmleigh there has been a new extension in East Street, 150 feet.

Number of New houses erected.	5
Number of old houses satisfactorily renovated.	31
Number of houses condemned as being unfit for human habitation.	1
Number of Cases reported under the Housing of Working Classes Act 1890.	1
Number of houses limewashed and repaired.	25
Number of houses disinfected.	21
" Schools disinfected.	Nil
Number of lots of bedding and clothing disinfected.	Nil
Number of complaints received as to Nuisances.	14
Number of Notices issued for abatement of Nuisances.	1
Number of Nuisances abated.	22
Number of cases abated for overcrowding.	None

Wm. Graddon Mortimer,
M.O.H. South Molton.

SUMMARY OF THE STATISTICS (Contd.).

At Chillingham there has been a new extension in West street, 100 feet

Number of New houses erected.	4
Number of old houses satisfactorily renovated.	31
Number of houses condemned as being unfit for human habitation.	1
Number of cases reported under the Housing of Working Classes Act 1890.	1
Number of houses limewashed and repaired.	32
Number of houses disinfected.	21
" Schools disinfected.	Nil
Number of lots of bedding and clothing disinfected.	Nil
Number of complaints received as to Nuisances.	14
Number of Notices issued for abatement of Nuisances.	1
Number of Nuisances abated.	22
Number of cases abated for overcrowding.	None

Wm. Arnold Bottomley,
M.C.H., Sanitary Inspector.